

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as set forth below in marked-up form. In addition, please cancel claims 1-10, the subject matter of which may be pursued in a separate continuation application.

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Previously Presented) An optical head having an optical element installed on a slider thereof and which reads a signal by illuminating an optical recording medium with a reading light,

the optical element having embedded in the surface of a lens substantially perpendicular thereto a conductive member whose diameter or width is smaller than the diameter of an optical spot on a lens surface, wherein there is provided an electrode to supply the conductive member with a current.

12. (Original) A signal reproducing method comprising the steps of:

splitting a laser light from a same source for incidence upon an optical element to form two optical spots on the focal plane of the optical element;

disposing, in a position corresponding to one of the optical spots, a conductive member whose diameter or width is smaller than the diameter of the optical spot, and

taking the optical spot incident on the conductive member as a detection light while taking another optical spot as a reference light and reading a signal under the effect of an interference between return light beams from the optical recording medium.

13. (Original) A signal reproducing method comprising the steps of:

illuminating an optical element with a laser light, disposing a conductive member in the position of an optical spot resulted from the laser light and supplying the conductive member with a high frequency current; and

detecting an interaction between a conductive material on an optical recording medium and the conductive member by extracting a signal synchronous with the high frequency and reading a signal recorded in the optical recording medium.

14. (Original) The signal reproducing method as set forth in claim 13, wherein the directions of the laser light deflecting surface and current are substantially perpendicular, or substantially parallel, to each other.

15. (New) The optical element as set forth in claim 11, wherein the optical element is one selected from among a semi-spheric lens, a super solid immersion lens and an objective lens.

16. (New) The optical element as set forth in claim 11, wherein the conductive member is made from at least one of a metal, a metalloid and a transparent conductive material having a different refractive index from the refractive index of the lens material.

17. (New) The optical element as set forth in claim 11, wherein the optical element is integrated with the slider.